

# jamahiriya review

DECEMBER 1980

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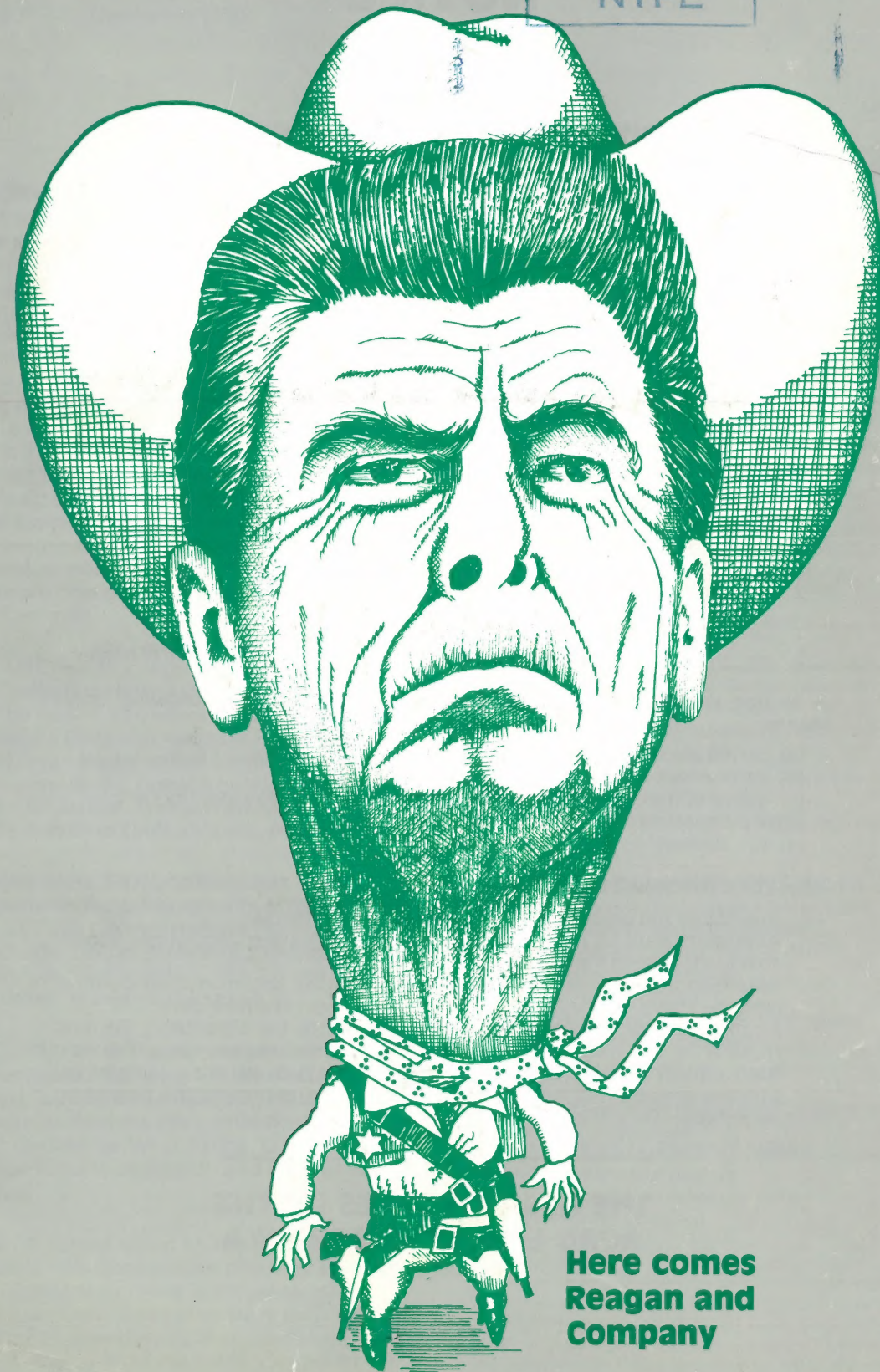
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Technology and social  
Justice: Qadhafi points  
the way ahead

STACK 3



Here comes  
Reagan and  
Company





## NOTICE

### INVITING ARAB VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE ARAB LIBYAN JAMAHIRIYA

In view of the revolutionary role for unity undertaken by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; it being the nucleus state of the union and of all the Arabs; the command of the General Headquarters of the Arab Libyan Armed Forces declares that Arab students may enrol in the following academies

- 1 — Air Academy
- 2 — Naval Academy
- 3 — Air Defence Academy
- 4 — Girls' Military Academy

Applicants for enrolment must satisfy the following conditions

- 1 — He (she) must be an Arab National;
- 2 — must not be less than 17 years nor more than 23 years old;
- 3 — must have obtained the GCE equivalent;
- 4 — must pass the prescribed medical test;
- 5 — must not have been convicted of an offence to the prejudice of honour

A written application should be submitted together with the following documents:

- (a) certificate stating the level of his academic education;
- (b) no previous convictions certificate;
- (c) a copy of his passport or travel document or personality identity card;
- (d) 4 passport size photographs;
- (e) full address.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Applicants will graduate in the rank of second lieutenant;
- Applicants shall be governed by the military laws and regulations applicable to the Armed Forces;
- Where an applicant is unable to obtain any of the documents set down in (a) to (e) above, he may undertake to produce them at a later date;
- Applications for enrolment shall be submitted to the Command, General HQs or to the nearest camp; and abroad to the embassy or a People's Arab Libyan Bureau, of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, who are prepared to supply answers to queries regarding the preceding paragraph.

### THE ARMED FORCES OF THE ARAB LIBYAN JAMAHIRIYA

# jamahiriya review

Issue No 7 December 1980

**COVER STORY:** The election of Mr Ronald Reagan as the next President of the United States will greatly enhance the power of a group of individuals committed to the escalation of the arms race, and opposed to detente with the Soviet Union. In an exclusive report Phil Kelly examines the various individuals who may not become well known faces in the Reagan administration, but who, nevertheless, must be recognised as influential in determining America's foreign policy in the next four years. In particular, the report traces the inter-relationship between these Cold War advocates and the Zionist lobby in the United States. Mr Reagan's arrival in the White House also looks set to herald a new Middle East initiative. Louis Eaks examines the implications of a policy which will seek to exclude the PLO and replace it by Jordanian participation in Phase II of the Camp David accords.

**THE WAY AHEAD.** In a recent televised broadcast, Muammer Qadhafi reviewed the urgent tasks which must be considered when the Jamahiriya's General People's Congress meets in the next few weeks. The Libyan leader called for the new Five Year Plan to provide the Jamahiriya with technology wedded to social justice. A report on page 8 examines the details of Qadhafi's comments.

**REVOLUTION IN ACTION:** In the latest of our series of reports on the achievements of the Al Fateh Revolution, Dr Alan George reviews the progress being made in the Libyan Jamahiriya towards self-sufficiency in food supplies. The Libyan battle against the desert is reported on page 15.

**AFRICAN COMMENT:** Recent weeks have seen a renewed propaganda campaign in the western media against the Libyan Jamahiriya, which claims that the Libyan authorities have embarked on a campaign to destabilise West Africa. Louis Eaks assesses these reports on page 9, and looks at recent events in Chad.

**PALESTINE:** A recent report by the Brussels based International Jurists Commission provides a sombre view of the Zionist occupation in Palestine. On page 10, Dr Alan George reviews the report, which sees parallels between the plight of the Palestinians under Zionist rule, and the methods adopted by the Pinochet regime in Chile.

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# The Amman Summit: The wrong place and the wrong time

THE ARAB Summit conference which took place in Amman in November was not a true summit. The protestations of the assembled Arab Kings and Presidents that they sought to renew the struggle against Zionism and to work for the liberation of Palestine are empty words when those who attended the summit are deliberately seeking to isolate both the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and Syria.

The Libyan Jamahiriya, along with its fellow members of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, and Lebanon, did not attend the Amman meeting. As the Foreign Secretary of the Jamahiriya said, the absence of the PLO and Syria reduced the legitimacy and authority of the meeting to a point where it was incapable of reflecting the will of the whole Arab nation. Under such circumstances, the Libyan Jamahiriya not only felt that it was its 'national duty to boycott the conference', but went further, and denounced the holding of the conference in such a way and time as 'a conspiracy against the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause.'

It was the absence of Syria, as the possible confrontation state, which led Libya and the PLO to boycott the Amman conference. Syria opposed the holding of the conference in November because, as Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam put it at the preliminary meeting of foreign ministers, 'If we look at the map of the Arab world, we can hardly find two countries without conflicts. These conflicts have either erupted or are about to explode. We can also hardly find two countries which are not in a state of war or on the road to war.'

Mr Khaddam rightly pointed out that the summit would not be able to end or even defuse these conflicts. Instead, there was a danger that the conference would decide 'to freeze the primary struggle in order to liquidate the peripheral struggles by non-brotherly means.'

Lebanon was the only state not in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front also to boycott the conference. It refused to attend on grounds which closely affect the future of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. It underlined the fears of the radical Arab states that the conference was incapable of dealing with the real problem — the confrontation with Zionism.

Zionist expansionism is not just a slogan for the Lebanese people. They have borne the brunt of Zionist invasion and air attacks for the past seven years. Part of Lebanese national territory is controlled by the Zionists through their puppet, Sa'ad Haddad. The Lebanese Foreign Ministry denounced the document on the plight of Lebanon presented to the meeting because it 'touched on generalities and is below the required minimum.'

In the absence of the members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, the final communique from the summit is not a document to be taken seriously. It pledges, for example, that the states which attended the conference continue to acknowledge the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. (The declaration on Palestine was based on documentation drawn up before the conference by the PLO and Syria.) Having created the conditions where neither of these felt it useful to attend the conference adopted the document as its policy. But it is an empty pledge. The rejection of UN Resolution 242 as a basis

for a settlement in the Middle East is ten years too late, the condemnation of the United States for its continued blanket backing for Israel is laughable when many of the regimes attending the conference are more attuned to the wishes of Washington than to the interests of their own people.

Saudi Arabia, for example, which claims to support the struggle for Arab rights in Palestine, has permitted US AWAC's to be based on Arab soil, while despite its claims to recognise the PLO, Saudi Arabia remains without a PLO representative in Riyadh.

The states attending Amman pledged their support for the PLO. If they were indeed planning to act against it, or to go behind its back, they would hardly say so in public. The words are thus meaningless. No Arab leaders, even as reactionary as those who met in Amman, can fail to pay the usual lip-service to Palestine. They have done so, after all, for three decades.

There is ample evidence that if it were possible, a deal with US backing and without the PLO would be cobbled together by the Arab reactionaries. The Lebanese newspaper *As Safir* reported that Jordan, backed by the Iraqis, the Kuwaitis, and the Saudis, was preparing to propose that it should be allowed to represent the Palestinian people alongside the PLO. This did not materialise at the conference, but it is certainly the thrust of much hidden diplomacy in the region.

If the communique was mild, King Hussein's closing speech was vitriolic. Stung by the success among Arab public opinion of the states which had stayed away, he said that he was 'against the domination of the Palestinian will.' He meant that if the PLO had agreed with him and attended the conference it would have demonstrated its 'independence'; as it boycotted the conference of its own will, it was therefore under pressure from Syria.

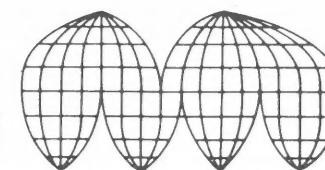
In a reference to Syria, Hussein said that a significant contribution made by Arab summits to Arab unity was 'the establishment of the inadmissibility of armed conflict between any Arab parties.' Hussein, of course, gladly despatched troops to Oman to back the British-installed Sultan against a popular uprising. He also said that 'Arab arms should not be used against Arab people': this from the man who on the orders of the US State Department flung his tanks and artillery against the refugee camps of the dispossessed Palestinian people during the infamous Black September of 1970.

Hussein also said that 'No Arab should support any non-Arab country.' This ignores the fact that for over twenty years he has been a principal advocate and defender of western imperialist interests in the Arab homeland.

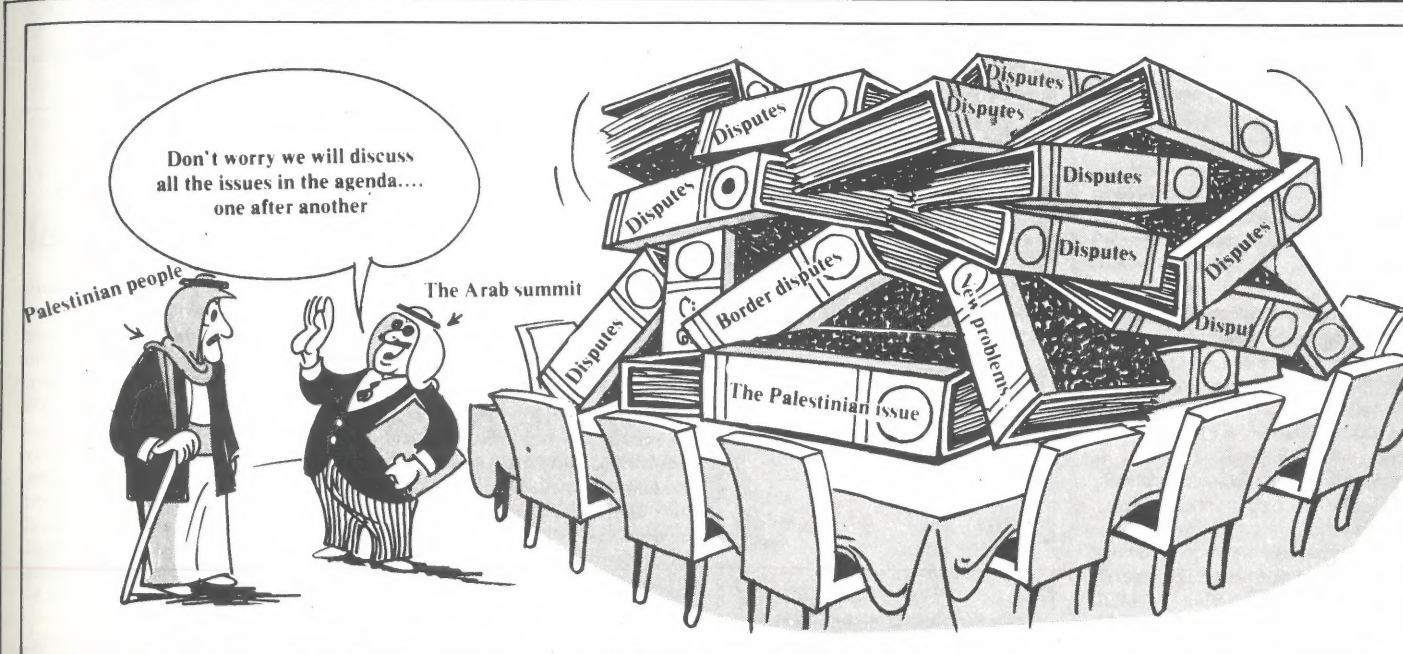
In the light of these hypocritical words, the mildness of the summit communique is illuminated for the deception which it is. The underlying reasons why the Libyan Jamahiriya and its sister states boycotted Amman remain.

There are deep divisions in the Arab nation, many of which can be traced back to the activities of western imperialism. There is an urgent need for these conflicts to be resolved on the basis of Arab unity and opposition to Zionism and imperialism. Until the states which attended at Amman show that they are prepared to do this, then they are playing into the hands of the imperialists. And whatever they say, they are submitting to the continued Zionist domination of Palestine.

A monthly review of Libyan, Islamic and Third World affairs



PANORAMA news review



## A strong structure for unity

PLANS ARE progressing for the union between the Libyan Jamahiriya and Syria, and are now well advanced, according to the Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskander. Although the western media has sought to undermine the unity scheme between the two countries, first proposed by the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in his 1st September speech at a rally marking the eleventh anniversary of the Al Fateh Revolution in the Jamahiriya, the Syrian minister discounted the views of the sceptics.

Interviewed by the London based weekly *8 Days* (29 November), Mr Iskander disclosed, 'Talks are continuing. A summit meeting will be held shortly to discuss further steps.'

The Syrian minister continued, 'We are not in a hurry. We want to achieve positive results which can survive.'

Earlier in the talks between the two sides, the Libyan view was accepted that meaningful union could only be established with the full support and understanding of the Syrian and Libyan people. In the Jamahiriya, the details of union were put before the Basic People's Congresses during the early autumn, and subsequently approved. In Syria, a similar process is underway through the

local branches of the Syrian Ba'ath Party.

The prospect of any early summit meeting between President Hafez Assad and Muammar Qadhafi has also been reported by the Beirut daily *As Safir*. The meeting, the paper said, would finalise the union project, and also prepare for a summit meeting of the Arab Steadfastness Front, formed to counter the US-sponsored Camp David accords, and which comprises the Libyan Jamahiriya, the PLO, Algeria, Syria and Democratic Yemen.

## Qadhafi and Mengistu hold Tripoli talks

TALKS BETWEEN Libya's Muammar Qadhafi and the Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam in Tripoli on 10th-11th November underline the common concern of the two countries at the increasing American penetration into Africa and the Arab region.

Few details of the talks have been released, but the Jamahiriya News Agency JANA disclosed that the two leaders agreed on the need to 'consolidate their efforts' against American policy in Africa. Earlier in Moscow, the Ethiopian leader made clear his views in a communique which condemned US bases in neighbouring Somalia as 'a direct threat to Ethiopia, and to the peace and security of the state of the region.'

## Princess Grace designs stamps

PRINCESS GRACE of Monaco has agreed to design a postage stamp based on a floral design for the United Nations, with the proceeds to go to the world body's International Year of the Disabled. It was the Libyan Jamahiriya which proposed, in 1977, that 1981 should be designated by the United Nations as the International Year of the Disabled, to highlight the plight of the world's handicapped people and to arouse public and governmental awareness of the need to accommodate and meet their special needs. As part of the development of the Jamahiriya's health and welfare services, Libya has invested heavily in providing special care and vocational centres for the country's handicapped citizens.

## More Libyan bureaux formed

IN RECENT weeks the Libyan Jamahiriya's diplomatic missions in seven Arab states have been taken over by the local Libyan communities as part of the country's plan to establish people's bureaux in place of the traditional diplomatic embassies. The moves are part of the Al Fateh Revolution's desire to stress that relations between countries should be on a people-to-people

basis, rather than between governments.

The Jamahiriya's missions in the Arab homeland, however, are to be known as Fraternal Bureaux, underlining the common Arab personality, which transcends state borders. Following a call by Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan leader, in his 1st September speech commemorating the 1st September Revolution in 1969, the diplomatic missions in Algeria, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Lebanon, Mauritania and Democratic Yemen have now been taken over.

The change to bureaux is also intended to provide Libyan communities overseas with greater democratic access in the running of the missions.

In early November, the Jamahiriya's embassy in Cyprus was taken over and proclaimed a people's bureau. Shortly after, it was announced that a Cyprus-Libya Friendship Society had been formed in the island's capital.

## Franco-Libyan relations begin to thaw

THE ARRIVAL of the French Foreign Ministry's Director of North African and Middle Eastern Affairs in the Libyan Jamahiriya provides a further sign that both countries wish to improve relations which have been at a low ebb in recent months. Following an earlier call by Muammar



Qadhafi, the Libyan revolutionary leader, for closer trade relations between the two countries, M Serge Boidevaix arrived in Tripoli accompanied by a team of economic advisors.

Relations between Libya and France reached an all time low, when following the January uprising in the Tunisian town of Gafsa the French armed forces intervened to support the Tunisian regime. The Jamahiriya has been a firm opponent of France's attempts to maintain its influence over its former colonies, particularly in Africa, and protests by the Libyan people at the French support for the Tunisian regime led to the recall of the French ambassador.

However, in August the French ambassador returned to Tripoli, while Muammer Qadhafi, addressing the extraordinary session of the General People's Congress in Tripoli on 28th September, called for increased trade ties with France, especially in the oil sector, saying that such ties were in the best interests of the Libyan people.

Commenting on the Boidevaix mission, the US journal *Strategy Week* (17-23 November) pointed to the failures by French intelligence to destabilise the Jamahiriya as a possible reason for the French desire for closer relations. 'Some analysts suspect,' said the journal, 'the French have decided that they cannot now bring Qadhafi down, and thus must try to co-operate with him.'

## Racist slur by Dayan

US CIVIL RIGHTS leader Jesse Jackson has demanded an apology from General Dayan, following remarks by the Zionist leader during a television interview on 14th November in which he said, in reference to the US armed forces, that military ranks up to the level of sergeant were made up 'mostly of blacks who have low intelligence and low education'.

However, Dayan, who has held several ministerial posts in the Zionist regime in Palestine, has said that he stands by his remarks.

## Call for Arab military volunteers

IN A bold move to strengthen the Arab nation's defence capabilities, the Libyan Jamahiriya has launched a recruitment campaign which offers all Arab students holding a general certificate of secondary education the opportunity of free military training. On graduation, the students will hold the rank of second lieutenant.



Libyan troops: Defending the Arab homeland.

The Libyan initiative comes at a time when the Arab homeland is under increasing threat from the United States and her allies. Not only is there the specific threat of military aggression against Syria and Lebanon from the Zionist state in Palestine, and the Egyptian mobilisation along the borders with the Jamahiriya, but increasing evidence of Washington's readiness to seize any opportunity to launch a military intervention to seize control of the Arab oil fields.

Washington's targets for military intervention, under the pretext of securing oil supplies, range from Libya and Algeria on the north African coastline to the Gulf oil states such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Recently American troops arrived in Egypt on a familiarization programme for military operations in desert terrain and climatic conditions.

The call for Arab volunteers has come in a series of advertisements placed in the Arab and international media during the past month (see inside cover of this issue).

## US blocks Arab school

A US local authority has rejected a proposal by the Tripoli based Islamic Call Society to establish a school in Washington DC for children of Arab diplomats.

Protests from local residents in the smart Arlington district of the capital led to a decision by the Arlington County Board unanimously opposing the plan.

The lawyer acting for the Call Society, Mr Richard Shadyac, was severely angered by the anti-Libyan sentiments expressed at the public hearing. Deploring 'the mass hysteria reflected here today', he pointed out that Americans currently operate a school in the Libyan capital. 'All the Libyans are asking for is that their children be given equal access,' he said.

Earlier this year there was a similar protest by the wealthy residents of the Chelsea region of London over plans by the People's Bureau in the city to open a school for Arab children in a disused school which the Bureau had purchased from the Greater London Council. The abortive campaign to deny the Bureau the school was remarkable for the absurdity of the residents' assertions, which included a claim that the rooftop playground might be used as a 'getaway pad' by helicopter-borne assassins. The virulence of the smear-campaign prompted the People's Bureau to hold a press conference on 24th March at which the allegations were firmly rejected.

The hysteria generated by plans for Libyan educational and cultural facilities in Washington and London stands in sharp contrast to the attitude of the French. On 22nd November a Libyan Arab School was opened in Paris, which will admit Libyan and other Arab children living in France.

## Zionists gun down Palestinian students

THE CLOSURE by Zionist occupation forces of the Palestinian university of Bir Zeit in the occupied West Bank in mid-November sparked a wave of major demonstrations. Israeli troops responded by firing live ammunition at the unarmed student demonstrators. Fourteen Palestinians were wounded during a two week period of protests.

The closure came on 14th November after the university had tried to stage a Palestine Week of social and cultural events. The first casualties came three days later when Israeli troops fired on girl students from a Ramallah high school. A 14 year old girl was wounded in the leg and two other pupils needed treatment for shock.

This heartless attack brought the West Bank to boiling point. Many demonstrations were staged, and there were further shootings in the towns of El

Bireh, Bethlehem and Nablus. One student in Bethlehem received a severe abdominal wound.

The wave of protests and school strikes was the most serious challenge to the Zionists since the occupiers implemented a new 'iron fist' policy to deal with civilian protests in May, after a Palestinian commando raid in Hebron which left six American Zionist settlers dead.

## Vienna conference condemns Israel

THE ISRAELI law on Jerusalem was a challenge and the Palestinians were ready to liberate their land under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which is now recognised by 106 UN members states. This declaration came on 5th November by the exiled Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr Rouhi al Khatib, on the first day of a three-day international conference in Vienna on the legal aspects of the Palestine question, with special regard to the problem of Jerusalem.

The Austrian Foreign Minister, Mr Willibald Pahr, in his inaugural speech accused the Zionist government of violating international law, especially through its settlement policies, the law on Jerusalem and the expulsion of freely-elected mayors.

The Chairman of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Senegal's Mr Falliou Kane, said while Israel owed its existence to a decision of the United Nations, the Zionist state now permanently ignored resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly and the Security Council. Asserting that the UN was the only body to resolve the Palestine problem, Mr Kane urged Israel, and also the United States, fully to co-operate with the UN in any efforts to bring about a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The international conference was organised by the International Progress Organisation, a non-governmental organisation based in the Austrian capital. Among the participants were experts on law from European and Arab states, as well as from Israel and the United States. Amongst the American participants was the former US Attorney-General Mr Ramsay Clark. The conference was also attended by representatives of international and non-governmental organisations, including the UN, the League of Arab States, the Inter-African Union of Lawyers, the World Peace Council and the Tripoli-based International Organisation for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

## US branch of Union of Arab Jurists

ELEVEN ARAB jurists, most of them attached to the United Nations in New York, are planning to start a United States branch of the Union of Arab Jurists. Mansour Kikhia, the Jamahiriya's Ambassador to the UN and UN representative of the Union of Arab Jurists — which has consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council — recently resigned his ambassadorial post to work full time for the UAJ.

The UAJ has as its stated aims the development of a single legal system which could be adopted in all 22 Arab states as a step towards the 'unification of the Arab homeland and its progress', and the defence of human rights and freedom. There are twenty branches of the UAJ in the Arab homeland, and a branch in Britain.

## Abourezk condemns 'negative stereotyping' of Arabs

THE POLITICAL side of the campaign to discredit Arabs in the US has resulted in the severe economic, social and political dislocation of Arabs and Arab Americans' and has produced a 'negative stereotyping' of Arabs and those of Arab descent in the US. This was the blunt message of former US senator James Abourezk at a dinner in London given by the newly formed Arab Bankers Association.

Abourezk, an American of Lebanese origin, runs a New York law firm and divides his time between his business and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (AAADC) which he set up in May this year. He was the first Arab-American senator, but left the senate after six years, reportedly disillusioned with US politics.

Speaking of the effect of the Arab image on Arab investment in the US, he highlighted the attitude of the local press — as orchestrated by Zionists — which had generated 'somewhat intimidatory results on Arab investment in the US.' He produced a few basic statistics to underline his point. In Britain, which has a much smaller economy than the US, Arab investments totalled about \$80,000 million. The figure for the US was about \$60,000 million and, according to the estimates he had, some 95 per cent of that total was held in US Treasury



Innocent victims of war: Libyan civilians maimed by World War II landmines.

## Libyan compensation approved by Germany

WEST GERMANY has agreed to review the Jamahiriya's claim for compensation for damages suffered by Libyans as a result of World War II, and the subsequent injuries caused by the explosions of undetected mines on Libyan territory. For several years the Libyan Jamahiriya has been seeking both compensation for the large number of civilian

casualties caused by the landmines, as well as assistance and co-operation in defusing other mines still existing below the soil's surface. In particular, Libya has sought British and German assistance in providing maps and charts which will lead bomb disposal squads to the minefields.

In response to Tripoli's appeal, the West German ambassador to Tripoli has informed the Foreign Liaison Bureau that Germany will consider the Jamahiriya's compensation claim, and the request for help in clearing the remaining mines.

notes 'at the request of the US government'.

Arabs hold only one per cent of all foreign investment in the US, with the British, the Dutch and the Germans holding far higher proportions. This, said Abourezk, was partly the fault of the US press which portrayed Arabs as either 'buying the whole US or blowing up Israeli schoolchildren.'

## Saudi sabotage of Yemen unity

AGAINST THE background of continuing moves by the two Yemens to unite, there is mounting evidence of growing determination by Saudi Arabia to frustrate the union plans of its two neighbours by sowing the seeds of regional dissent in north Yemen.

In late November President Ali Nasser Muhammad of Democratic Yemen held a meeting with the north Yemeni Minister of Education, Dr Ahmad Abdullah Alasbahi, at which the steps already taken to unify the two parts of the Yemen were reviewed. Aden radio reported President Ali Nasser as affirming during the meeting the necessity of joint action in the edu-

cational and cultural fields as part of the unification process.

At the same time, however, came disturbing reports of action by Saudi Arabia to thwart the emergence of a unified Yemen, which would act as a powerful counterweight in the Arabian Peninsula to the US-backed regime in Riyadh. According to the London *Daily Telegraph* (26th November), last month saw a rebellion by tribesmen in the Jebel Raymah district of north Yemen, provoking counter-action by the state's armed forces. The tribes in the north and east of the country have traditionally exerted a high degree of control over their internal affairs but the *Daily Telegraph* commented that they 'usually carry out the quiet instructions sent from Saudi Arabia, which keeps them supplied with arms and money.'

## Moroccan colonialism exposed

THE MOROCCAN government has recently intensified its campaign to settle Spanish-speaking northern Moroccans in the Western Sahara to counter the independence struggle by the Polisario Front, a senior guer-

rilla official disclosed on 1st December.

Mr Fadel Ismail, Polisario's European representative, said in London that 'hundreds of families' had been sent to the Western Sahara in recent months in a Moroccan effort to create a 'colonial fait accompli.' This, said Mr Ismail, was an example of 'the blind intransigence of King Hassan and his refusal to put an end to Morocco's expansionist policy, which constitutes the only hindrance to the return of peace in the north west Africa region.'

Polisario forces, he claimed, had last month inflicted heavy losses on Moroccan troops, who were becoming demoralised by the prolonged conflict.

Polisario, which receives strong support from Algeria and the Libyan Jamahiriya, has been fighting the Moroccan army since 1975, when Spain withdrew from the Western Sahara and it was annexed by King Hassan. In February 1976 Polisario proclaimed the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic.

Although Morocco has rejected a call by the Organisation of African Unity for a ceasefire and a referendum, it is believed that Rabat's policy of settling Spanish-speaking northerners in the former colony may be intended to influence the outcome of a referendum in the future.

## Secret Chinese arms deal with Zionists

ISRAEL IS secretly selling arms to China, and on a massive scale, according to reports in *Newsweek* magazine on 24th November. Israeli military exports worldwide have more than doubled in the past year to \$1.25 billion, it was disclosed in early November, and partly as a result of the new Chinese market the Zionists expect to double their exports in the current fiscal year.

In addition to the weapons purchases, the Chinese are said to be close to signing a \$2 billion contract, also shrouded in secrecy, to buy Israeli electronic and optical equipment. It would be the biggest export deal in the history of the Zionist state.

A major reason for the cloak of secrecy is China's fear that its growing relationship with the Zionists might harm its interests in the Arab homeland.

In January, the General People's Congress in Libya decided to break relations with China as a result of Peking's support for the Sadat regime. Although China was one of the first non-Arab states to give diplomatic recognition to the PLO, in recent years Peking has aligned more closely with the United States.



## Technology and social justice: Qadhafi points the way ahead

IN A wide-ranging review of the issues which are currently being discussed in the forums of the Basic People's Congresses, the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi has called on his fellow Libyans to commit the Jamahiriya to a programme which will weld high technology to social justice.

The Libyan leader's remarks were broadcast on 19th November on the Jamahiriya's radio and television networks, and were clearly intended to set the tone for the forthcoming session of the General People's Congress, the country's highest political body.

The next meeting of the General People's Congress is of particular importance, since it will be at this convention that Libya's citizens will determine the priorities and details of the Jamahiriya's new five year development programme, for which investment is expected to total over £40,000 million. The development plan will run from 1981 to 1985.

Muammer Qadhafi pointed out that the new development plan would differ from earlier ones, since details would for the first time be based on the decisions taken by Libyan citizens throughout the Jamahiriya. Through the Basic People's Congresses details of the plan must be approved by the Libyan people, rather than imposed by central planners.

The next five years are crucial in the Jamahiriya's transformation into an industrial society. Brother Qadhafi stressed that in this period the country must move 'from a consumer society into a productive one', on the basis of which 'socialism can be achieved'.

He urged that priority be given to what he termed 'strategic industries', and Muammer Qadhafi emphasised the need to bring high-level technology into the country's factories and industrial units.

It was also the task of the educational sector, particularly at the higher levels, to provide training and education in technology. Only in this way could the Libyan people assume their responsibilities in management and control of the Jamahiriya's wealth and natural resources.

To meet the manpower requirements of the new industrial age, Brother Qadhafi once again urged the breaking down of barriers between the sexes. He stressed the need to open the way for women to assume their rightful place in society, and called for the five year plan to provide some 100,000 new jobs for women.

'There can be no one who can stand against this women's march towards freedom,' he said, condemning the situation in which women find their job opportunities limited to 'unsuitable work' such as sweeping and cleaning.

It was also important, Qadhafi declared, that steps should be taken to eradicate

**AS THE Libyan people prepare for the forthcoming meeting of the Jamahiriya's General People's Congress, Muammer Qadhafi has called for a programme which will weld high technology to social justice and socialism. Louis Eaks reports on some of the important issues raised by the Libyan leader.**

the wide differences in salary scales which still exist.

Turning to political and international affairs, the Libyan leader spoke of the threats against the Jamahiriya from western imperialist nations. It was the duty of the Jamahiriya's citizens to protect the country's wealth and political independence. The Libyan people must not join those oil producing states whose leaders connived with the colonialists against Arab national interests.

The Jamahiriya's determination to be truly non-aligned and independent raised the threat of armed intervention in the country from the imperialist countries and their allies in the region. Brother Qadhafi reviewed recent provocations against



Muammer Qadhafi (top) calls for a technology based society.

Libya, including US airborne patrols into Libyan airspace, the Egyptian military build-up on the western border, and the tensions with Tunisia.

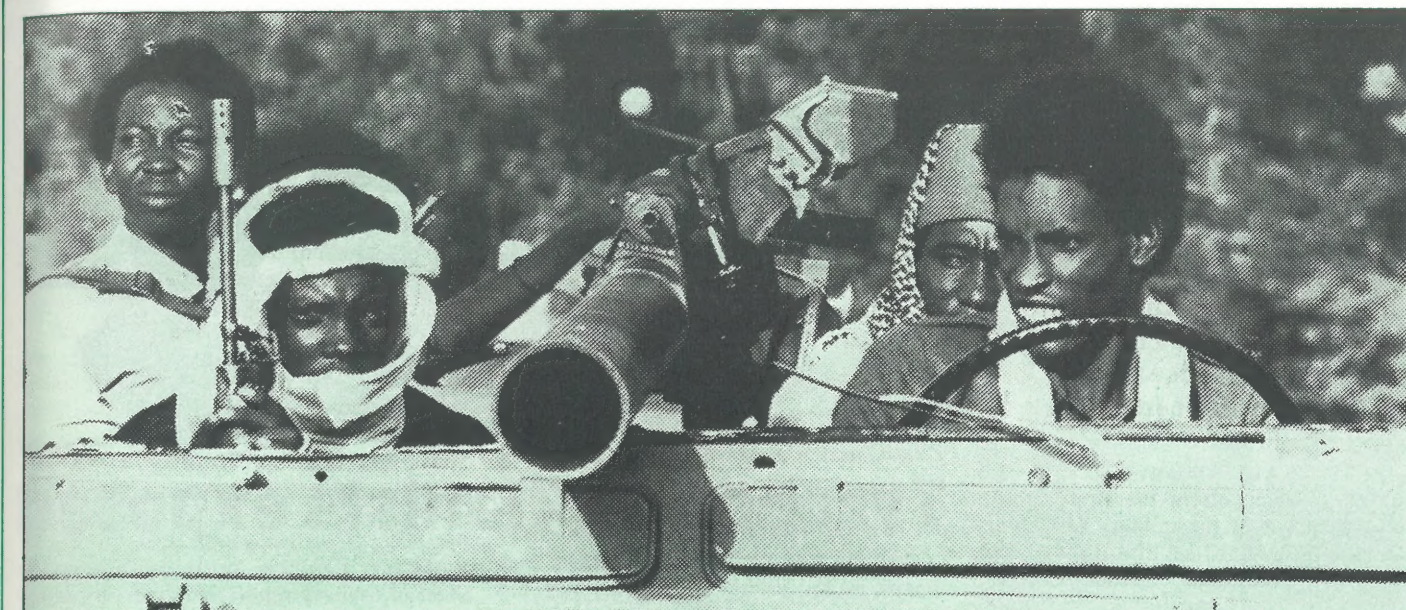
To meet these provocations and challenges to the Jamahiriya's independence, it was proposed that educational institutions should operate as centres for military training. Such a development would also serve one of the principal objectives of the Al Fateh Revolution, namely the establishment of an 'armed people', and the abolition of the conventional standing army. Again, Brother Qadhafi stressed that women should not be excluded from their rightful place in defending the country.

These provocations 'might turn at any moment into a flagrant aggression against our wealth and freedom,' warned Qadhafi. Although the Jamahiriya would defend itself, Libya had no quarrel with the Egyptian and Tunisian peoples, and Qadhafi urged that there should be no concentration of Libyan troops along the borders with these two countries.

The General People's Congress has the authority to determine the Jamahiriya's relations with foreign countries. On this point Brother Qadhafi proposed that friendly and hostile countries should be treated differently when it comes to oil pricing and marketing. On the subject of the Jamahiriya's dispute with Malta over off-shore exploration and drilling, the Libyan leader called for the matter to be settled by the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

Brother Qadhafi also referred to the international propaganda campaign being waged against the Jamahiriya by western imperialism. He urged a campaign to counter this 'misinformation' which depicts the Libyan people as 'a savage people who threaten world peace'.

'If the Libyan people wished to defend themselves and fight on these fronts, then let them fight there, so long as the fighting is on paper, which is better than fighting with bodies and blood,' he declared.



No Libyans: Troops supporting President Oueddei on patrol in N'djamena.

## No evidence of Libyan forces in Chad

A DENIAL that the Libyan Jamahiriya is militarily involved in neighbouring Chad has come from Muammer Qadhafi. The Libyan leader's rejection of American and French claims that some 3,000 Libyan troops are now based in Chad came in late November, as *Reuters* reports from N'djamena also confirmed the absence of Libyan forces there.

The Libyan leader accused the United States of trying to force some African states into condemning Libya's assistance to the Chadian government. Qadhafi stressed that Libyan aid was limited to a few military advisors and guards around the presidential palace in the capital. He pointed out that the Jamahiriya is helping the Chad government under a friendship and alliance treaty signed on 15th June this year in Tripoli. The treaty provided for mutual military assistance if needed, he said.

Muammer Qadhafi added that Libya's aid to Chad was mainly humanitarian. 'That means food, medicines and tents to shelter refugees,' he said.

Chad is currently the scene of a civil war between the government forces of President Koukouni Oueddei, and the insurgent forces of former Defence Minister Hissene Habre. The latter is backed by the United States, France and Egypt, and it is this alliance which poses a threat to the Libyan Jamahiriya. Habre is receiving material aid, arms and military advisors from Egypt, which now acts as a proxy force for the United States in securing American influence in Africa.

The Oueddei administration was recognised by the OAU at the Lagos conference as Chad's legitimate government, and it is on the basis that the Jamahiriya has forged its ties with the country. The presence of Egyptian forces in Chad poses a direct threat to the Jamahiriya, and the

**AGAINST THE background of the civil war in Chad, the United States has launched a new propaganda campaign based on claims that the Libyan Jamahiriya has thousands of troops in the African state. Louis Eaks reports on the Libyan response to these claims, and assesses the real motives of the United States.**

overthrow of the Chadian regime could provide Sadat with the opportunity to make a military assault on the Jamahiriya from the east and the south.

Observers point to the irony that it should be the United States and France which have accused Libya of intervention in Chad. Both countries have a long history of colonial and imperialist intervention. Chad is a former colony of France.

Despite the widespread coverage given in the western media to American claims of a strong Libyan military presence in Chad the *Reuters* correspondent reporting from N'djamena on 23rd November stated: 'Western correspondents who toured the civil war battle lines in Chad saw no signs of direct Libyan involvement which has been reported by US Defence Department officials.'

*Reuters* continued, 'When newsmen toured the front lines in N'djamena on Thursday with an American correspondent, they saw no evidence of direct Libyan military involvement.'

The report also quoted French doctors at two field hospitals in the capital as saying that no Libyans were amongst the casualties being treated there.

Although Libya does not deny its support for the Chadian President, and the presence of a limited number of Libyan military advisors to which Colonel Qadhafi referred in his 29th November press conference, it is clear that the current American claims are the latest phase of the psychological warfare campaign being conducted from Washington against the Libyan Jamahiriya.

The United States, ever keen to maintain and expand its influence in Africa, as elsewhere in the Arab homeland and the Third World, is determined to discredit the Libyan Jamahiriya in the international arena. In particular, the Americans are in direct conflict with the Jamahiriya's advocacy that all foreign troops and military bases should be removed from the Arab homeland and the African continent. Libya has repeatedly called for the creation of a pan-African peace-keeping force, and however logical is such a scheme, the Americans see it as heralding an end to their intervention in African affairs. Likewise, for France such a step would make it impossible for Paris to retain its colonial influence over African governments.

The African continent is being divided and weakened by the western nations in two ways: firstly, internal disputes are encouraged, and insurgent forces armed in a desperate bid to instal pro-western regimes which will permit exploitation of African resources and territory to further enrich the United States and her allies; secondly, through propaganda campaigns such as that surrounding the Chadian civil war, the United States government clearly intends to weaken the unity of the African nations within the OAU, thereby undermining African determination to withstand the challenge of the United States and other former colonial powers in Africa.



**A RECENT report by the Brussels based International Commission of Jurists provides a sombre exposure of the Zionists' total disregard for human rights of the Palestinians living under military occupation. Alan George reviews the report, which compares Zionist actions with those of the Pinochet regime in Chile.**

A REMARKABLE report has just been published which offers the first comprehensive survey of the military regulations and orders with which the Zionist state rules the Palestinian territories seized in 1967, and which highlights the brutality of the occupation. The study, prepared by two lawyers from the West Bank, is published by the highly respected International Commission of Jurists and concludes that Israel's administration in the occupied Palestinian territories is harsher even than that of the most extreme rightist regimes such as that of Pinochet in Chile.

In his preference to the study, Mr Niall MacDermot, Secretary-General of the International Commission of Jurists, notes that the study could only have been undertaken by jurists from the West Bank. This is because the military orders, which for more than thirteen years have been the only legislation in effect in the region, 'are not published and are not to be found in any library... Nowhere is a complete set available and efforts even my lawyers to obtain copies of missing orders are usually unsuccessful.'

It is this high degree of secrecy about its military orders that is a particular hallmark of Zionist rule in the West Bank. As MacDermot says, 'There have been isolated cases, as in Chile, where one or two decrees of a military government have been treated as secret documents and not published. However, this is the first case to come to the attention of the International Commission of Jurists where the legislation of a territory is not published in an official gazette available to the general public.'

The reason for the secrecy is not difficult to grasp. Israel always strives to portray itself as a state where the rule of law is accorded the highest respect. To this day, despite the massive body of evidence proving the brutality of the regime in the 1967 occupied territories, the Zionists still make every effort to hoodwink world public opinion into believing that the Israeli occupation is essentially 'benign' or 'benevolent'. Mr MacDermot himself points to Israel's concern for its international image as a primary factor behind the secrecy of its West Bank legislation.



Zionist forces in occupied Palestine

## Tyranny of Zionists exposed

Noting that under international law, Israel is an occupying power and has no right to make changes in laws, or in the administration, other than those temporarily necessitated to preserve the safety of its army, MacDermot says, 'At first the military government followed these precepts and declared that it accepted that it should apply the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The secrecy of its legislation has helped to convey the impression that the military occupation continues to be guided by these principles.'

Most cases in the West Bank are now tried in Israeli military courts, and the study underlines how defendants lie at the mercy of these tribunals, which comprise either a single (Israeli) judge or a three man team of Israeli army officers, only one of whom is required to have any legal training. In both cases the appointment of the judges is made by the local Zionist military commander.

The most important flaw in the functioning of the military courts, say the authors of the study, is the absence of any right of appeal. This, they say, 'breaches a fundamental principle of the rule of law. Firstly, it makes it impossible to correct judicial errors, which may occur in any court. Secondly, experience in many parts of the world has shown that it induces a laxity in the court in following proper procedures, applying strict standards of proof and strict interpretation of the law, and resolving any doubts in favour of the accused. The court is, and knows itself to be, beyond power of correction.'

The study also contends that the absence of the right of appeal is in contravention of the Geneva Conventions, which even in a subsection dealing with internal armed conflicts prohibit 'the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgement pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognised as indispensable by civilized peoples.'

After reviewing the way in which the Zionists have relentlessly moved to take over the functions of the local Palestinian

judiciary, the new study catalogues the host of military regulations used by Israel as pretexts for their usurpation of the 1967 occupied territories and the suppression of the population. But the authors comment that 'The most basic restriction on their (the Palestinians') human rights is the continuation for over 13 years of the occupation, denying them, as it does, the right to self-determination and imposing severe hardships, both physical and psychological. The effect of this is more evident on the younger generation of the population, many of whom have been forced to emigrate from the area to find work. The alternative, for most of those who stay, is to work as labourers or in other manual occupations in Israel, leading a frustration life without hope for the future.'

But perhaps the most telling evidence of the lengths to which the Zionists have gone to destroy the confidence and self-respect of the occupied Palestinians comes in the conclusion to the study. 'Anyone going through the massive volume of military orders which have been promulgated in the West Bank, say the authors, 'would come across ones dealing with aspects of the daily lives of the inhabitants which it may seem surprising that the military government has taken the trouble to meddle with. An example is the order prohibiting picking of wild thyme growing on the hills. One can but wonder,' say the authors, 'whether the point of issuing it was to protect nature, to safeguard the interests of Israeli planters, or perhaps to deprive the Palestinian population of access to a herb which, through the many allusions to it in Palestinian literature, has come to symbolise the attachment of Palestinians to their land and their love of the herbs that are peculiar to it.' The authors go on, however, to chronicle an even more absurd regulation, that prohibits the planting of azaleas. It can be ascribed only to sheer malice.

*The West Bank and the Rule of Law, by Raja Shehadeh assisted by Jonathan Kuttub. Published by the International Commission of Jurists, Geneva, 1980.*

THERE IS a widespread notion that Zionist influence in the United States runs principally through the Democratic party, and a corresponding view that the election of Ronald Reagan, while indicating a shift to the right and a more aggressive US foreign policy in general may result in a freer rein for US policy in the Middle East, and a more flexible approach. The notion is out of date, and the hope amongst America's Arab allies is likely to be dashed.

Reagan seems likely to have two lines of thought to choose from among his foreign policy advisors; those who believe that it is necessary to confront the Arab homeland in order to protect the existence of the State of Israel, and those who believe that they can use certain elements within the Arab nation in order to achieve the same ends. There are no anti-Zionists in the Reagan camp.

The notion that it is the Democrats, who are above all prisoners of the Zionists, takes no cognisance of the shift to the right which has been engineered by business circles in the United States in the past decade. Revulsion against US involvement in foreign wars, particular Vietnam, had hardly begun to make its mark on US politics before the right began to organise against it. At its height, anti-war sentiment provided the political basis on which President Nixon could be brought to account for his illegal domestic activities, which were principally directed towards opponents of the Vietnam war.

But the anti-war movement was diffuse. The response to it, which started almost before it had any political effect, has been well co-ordinated, and importantly, has crossed the party line between Democrats and Republicans. And the role of Zionist opinion in moving with and contributing to this shift to the right is marked.

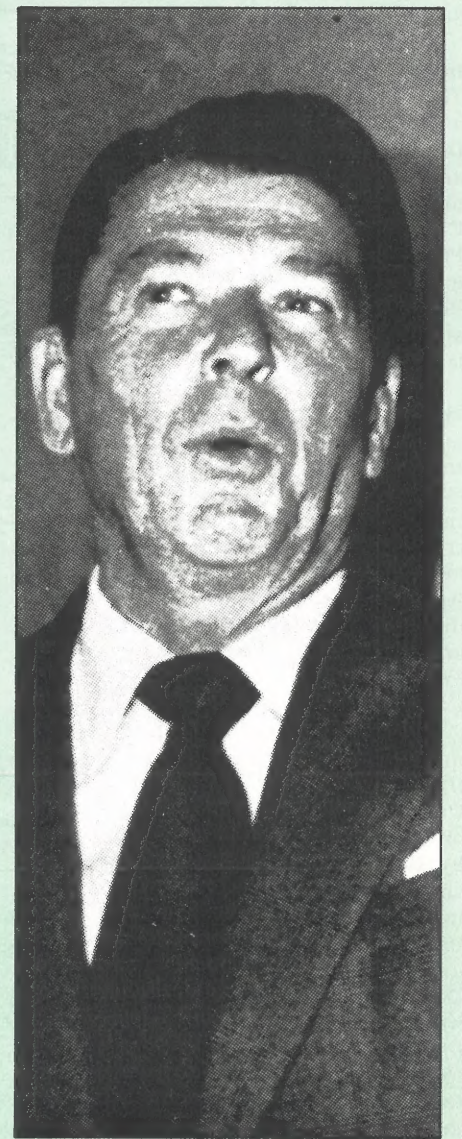
On his recent visit to Washington, Israeli Premier Menachem Begin, awarded medals commemorating the dead Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky to a number of American Zionists. Four men in particular represent the power of the Zionists in the Reagan camp. The fact that two of them are nominally members of the Democratic Party merely serves to underline the bi-partisan nature of the new politics of US expansionism.

The two Democrats were senators Henry Jackson and Daniel Patrick Moynihan; the other two were the Reverend Jerry Falwell, leader of the fundamentalist Christian organisation called Moral Majority, and retired Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, formerly Chief of Operations of the US Navy. Between them, they represent the various trends of what is generally referred to as 'the new right', the coalition which was responsible for the Reagan victory.

Jackson and Moynihan, and their unswerving Zionism require little introduction. 'Scoop' Jackson has been one of Israel's most loyal supporters on Capitol Hill. He sought to embarrass the Carter administration, time and time again over

## Here comes Reagan and Company

**THE ELECTION of Ronald Reagan as President of the United States heralds an era in which the Arab homeland will be a focus of America's increasingly assertive foreign policy. Phil Kelly looks at the organisations which have joined forces in the United States to put Reagan into the White House, and warns that the next four years will require firm vigilance from the Arabs to protect their independence and national rights. American imperialism's psychological war against the Third World nations is set to escalate as Reagan arrives in the White House.**



the issue of Soviet Jewry, and opposed all attempts at detente or talks on arms limitation, insisting more than anyone on the need to force the Soviet Union to change its internal policies in return for US concessions on arms. These themes are so closely shared with the Reagan camp's electoral slogans that it is not surprising that Jackson is widely tipped to become a member of Reagan's Cabinet, possibly as Defense Secretary.

Moynihan, Democratic Senator for New York, is also known for his outspoken opposition to Third World countries. During his period as US representative at the United Nations, he violently attacked the Palestinians and described the non-aligned movement as merely a tool of the Soviet Union. Though Democrats, both Jackson and Moynihan attacked successive administrations from the right — Kissinger and Nixon because of detente, Carter for his alleged weakness and vacillation towards the Soviet Union.

Jackson's supporters in the Democratic Party outside Congress organised the Coalition for a Democratic Majority, CDM, founded by Democratic Party rightwingers when George McGovern won the Party's

Presidential nomination in 1972 on an anti-war platform. A leading light in the formation of CDM was Eugene Rostow, Under Secretary of State to President Johnson, and a dedicated Vietnam 'hawk'. The rationale of the Coalition's policies was to awaken the US to the alleged 'Soviet threat', and to win support for the continuation of aggressive, expansionist foreign policies, imposed by military force where necessary, which had been the hallmark of American foreign policy since 1945.

Rostow and the CDM were worried that with withdrawal from Vietnam, popular opposition to such policies was gaining the upper hand. For some time, even elite US ruling class groups such as the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Trilateral Commission had been toying with alternative models of foreign policy.

Some even went so far as to propose approaches which rejected the idea that the conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States was the central issue in world politics. They were considering whether or not it made more sense — from the point of view of western capital — to pay greater attention to the North-South divide, which they felt was a greater



threat to the stability of the West than the Soviet Union.

#### Imperialist perspective

The nomination of Jimmy Carter in 1976 — a candidate widely seen as the protégé of the liberal foreign policy establishment, and a member of the Trilateral Commission — galvanised the hawks. The CDM dissolved into the Committee on the Present Danger, CPD, a broader-based grouping, which made links with both Republican rightwingers and the traditional cold warriors in America's trade union leaderships.

Their efforts were successful in relegating concern about the North-South split to a secondary role. World poverty was seen as important not because of the monstrous insult to human dignity which it caused, but simply because poverty created the conditions in which radical movements could gain political support. And such radical movements, the traditional right wing orthodoxy maintains, are created and kept alive solely by and for the benefit of the Soviet Union. The Cold War was back in fashion.

The hawks scored a significant success in the dying months of the Ford Administration, on which their efforts under Carter were to be firmly based. Pressure on the Ford Administration, orchestrated by the opponents of détente, was not sufficient to dislodge the tenacious Kissinger. But the hawks could and did change the rules of the game so as to cut the ground from under Kissinger's feet. Détente and specifically arms limitation, were possible because it was believed that the United States held an overwhelmingly military superiority over the Soviet Union. Indeed, that was the case then, and it is the case now. But it is not easy to argue from that starting point for a massive build-up of American military power which the hawks wanted.

President Ford was forced into agreeing a re-assessment of the basis on which

the United States evaluated Soviet military strength and intentions. The hawks, led by Professor Richard Pipes, a 'specialist' in Soviet affairs from Harvard, formed one 'team' for the purposes of this exercise; the other 'team' was composed of specialists from the CIA and the other US intelligence organisations. The hawks won hands down, largely because they asserted the arguments about the centrality of containing the Soviet threat which had governed US foreign policy under Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson.

The result was a new set of National Intelligence Estimates. Official US estimates of the amount which the Soviet Union was spending on armaments increased abruptly from 6-8 per cent to 11-12 per cent. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute commented: 'It was the same bundle of goods with higher prices put on them.'

The hawks also won with their argument that the Soviet Union had formed both the capability and the intention to be the first to unleash a nuclear strike in any East-West confrontation. They claimed, without much evidence, that the USSR thought it could fight and win a nuclear war, and that deterrence, the assurance that neither super power would start a nuclear war, because it would be destroyed, had failed. The hawks succeeded in getting the United States, over the four years of the Carter administration, to adopt precisely the policies which they claimed had been adopted by the Soviet Union.

Once the basis of military strategy had been changed, the rest followed. The Carter Administration in 1977 agreed to increase US military spending by five per cent per year in real terms, and pressured its NATO allies to increase their annual military spending by three per cent. Billions of dollars were allocated for the Trident and MX missile systems; NATO countries were crudely pushed into accepting theatre nuclear weapons in

Europe — cruise missiles. All this was leading up to the US decision to adopt a first strike capability. The seal on this was set earlier this year when President Carter signed Presidential Directive 59 which orders the deployment of US nuclear capabilities against specific, precise Soviet military targets. It relies on the new technology of precision guided missiles, gives the military the dangerous illusion that there can be a 'limited' nuclear exchange, and so makes a nuclear war more likely.

#### The Zionist connection

The CDM, in its search for wider backing, sought and found support from leading Zionists. Eugene Rostow wrote of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war as a watershed in the thinking of many American Zionists, and described the events as 'the Arab-Soviet Attack on Israel'. The right used events in the Middle East to detach many Jews, whose opinions were often liberal on issues not connected with Israel, from the Democratic Party.

*Commentary*, for many years a leading periodical of the liberal establishment, published by the American Jewish Committee, became virtually the mouthpiece of the CPD. Its editor, Norman Podhoretz, was a leading CPD member. It began to print articles by noted right wing propagandists like Robert Moss; it accused those who exposed Nixon's wrong doings of 'McCarthyism'.

Rostow and Podhoretz were among the founders, in 1977, of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, JINSA. This was essentially designed to mobilise Jewish votes behind any candidate who backed the CPD's militaristic policies. JINSA's founding statement of purpose made it clear that as far as the hawks were concerned, the future of Israel depended directly on vast increases in US military spending, and the acceptance that all the forces directed against Israel were simply the product of Soviet malice.

'Israel's existence could well depend on American recognition of Soviet intentions and America's willingness and ability to defend its own interests,' JINSA's statement said.

In the run-up to the 1980 elections, it was of course Ronald Reagan who responded to the agenda which had effectively been written during the Carter years by the hawks. Reagan's general approach towards the Soviet Union, and détente, and his opposition to the SALT treaty, were mirrored in his statements on the Middle East, placing the US alliance with Israel above any contacts with Arab states. Israel is of over-riding importance to the hawks simply because it is there: 'The paramount American interest in the Middle East is to prevent the region falling under the domination of the Soviet Union... Israel is the military offset to the Soviet Union,' Reagan said during the campaign, and on another occasion remarked that 'Specific Arab states such as Egypt — friendly to us at a particular moment — may well be able and prepared to take a front-line position in defence of Western security interests... So much the better, but such secondary links cannot substitute for a strong Israel in the ever-turbulent Middle East.'

#### Egypt's role

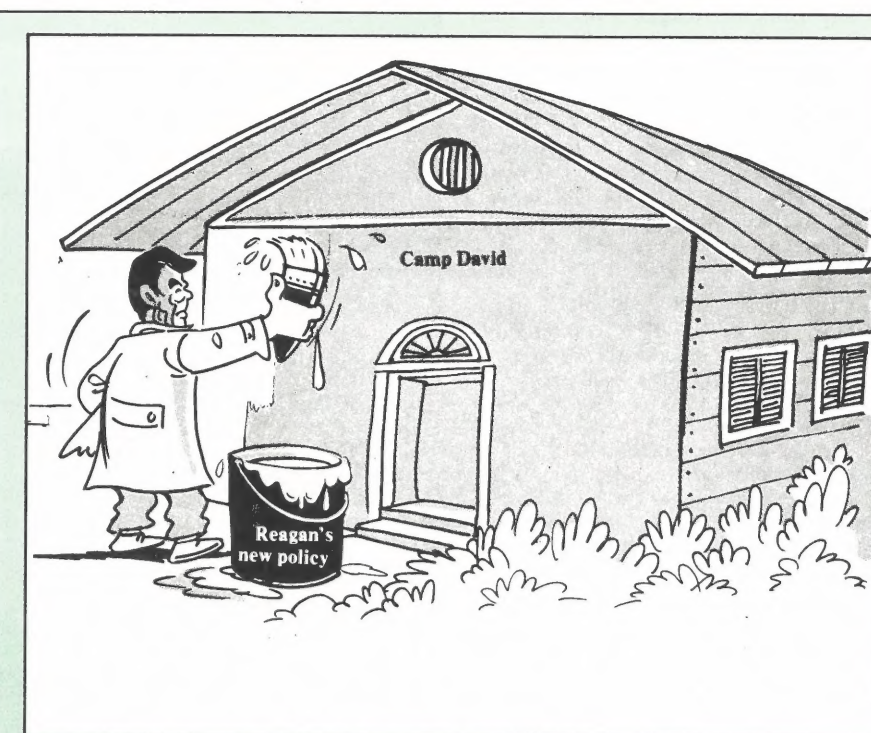
In other words, Egypt can be encouraged to attack the Libyan Jamahiriya, or to act as a police force in Africa against progressive or nationalist movements, but cannot be allowed to threaten or even pressure Israel.

Winning support for the militaristic line articulated by the CPD has been the task of the think-tanks, those peculiarly American institutions, financed by business, which purport to carry out research and education, but are also propaganda organisations, pushing specific policies espoused by their founders.

One good example is the National Strategy Information Center in Washington (NSIC). Its Chairman, Frank Barnett, is a CPD member. NSIC has close links with the South African government, and was one of the sponsoring organisations of a Conference held in Brighton, England, in 1978, which was partly financed by the South African Department of Information. The theme of the conference, predictably enough, was the need to organise 'a global response to the Soviet challenge'.

So it comes as no surprise that Admiral Zumwalt, the recent recipient of another of Beigin's Jabotinsky medals, is a member of the NSIC.

The other think tank which has played a prominent part in lobbying for the hawks among the American business and academic elite is the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University in Washington. Among its staff are Edward Luttwak, the 'strategic expert' who holds dual Israeli and British nationality, and Robert Neumann, former US Ambassador to Afghan-



## Reagan sees Jordan as the key to Israel's survival

**RADICAL ARAB** forces are bracing themselves for a new Middle East 'initiative' following President Reagan's arrival in the White House in January, writes Louis Eaks. Although Reagan's Middle East policy has yet to be clearly defined, two central points were emphasised by Reagan throughout his campaign.

Firstly, Reagan will stand firm against recognising the PLO as the representative body of the Palestinian people. Secondly, Reagan will push for a new bilateral agreement, as 'Camp David Phase II', between Israel and Jordan. This will involve a non-belligerency agreement between the Zionists and Jordan, providing for some limited Jordanian control over the West Bank territory of Palestine, but allowing Zionist settlements and military presence to remain.

Responsibility for policing the Palestinian people will be held jointly by the Zionists and Jordan — a modern version of America's 'Vietnamisation' policy in South East Asia.

The immediate period of American diplomacy in the Arab homeland will centre on convincing the pro-Western Arab leaders to drop their support of the PLO in favour of handing West Bank authority to King Hussein.

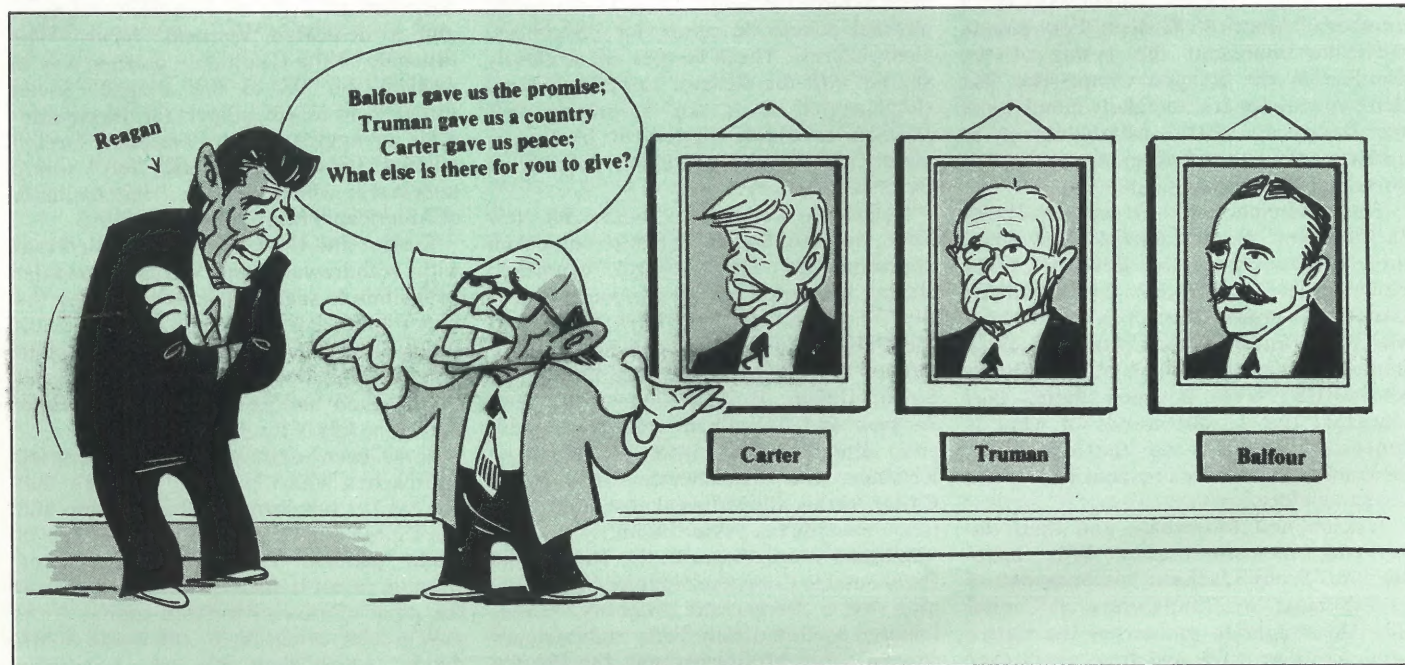
However, the Reagan administration's scheme is likely to face firm opposition in the United Nations, where 112 states voted last summer to recognise the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In Europe, also the nine governments

of the EEC states have stressed in the Venice Declaration that the PLO must be a party to any discussions concerning the future of Palestine.

Nevertheless, the United States can expect not only a compliant friend in King Hussein, whose regime has survived the years with heavy backing from the CIA, but also from the Israeli Labour Party which looks set for a landslide victory when the Zionist go to the polls in 1981. The Labour Party, which has ruled the Zionist state for all except four years since 1948, and which has rigidly suppressed the Palestinian Arabs and denied them their right to return to their homeland, is a degree more flexible than the Beigin regime.

Reagan will seek to exploit this flexibility to secure a treaty between Israel and Jordan which will further protect the Zionist state and make only token concessions to Palestinian national rights.

Although the Amman Summit in November reiterated Arab support for the PLO, Hussein is known to favour a solution which would assert his influence over the West Bank. Recent arrests of Palestinians in Jordan indicate that Hussein may be willing to abandon the PLO altogether in return for continued American and CIA backing for his regime. If Hussein refuses to co-operate, Washington is in a strong position to threaten the destabilisation of his regime, although it is unlikely that Washington would go so far as to engineer the final overthrow of the King.





istan and head of Reagan's Middle East task force; both are tipped for jobs in the Reagan administration. The Chairman of CSIS's International Research Council is university professor and veteran Zionist Walter Laqueur. On the editorial board of the CSIS journal *Washington Quarterly* sit Senator Moynihan and Anne Armstrong, Nixon's Ambassador to London and Chairman of Reagan's Campaign Committee.

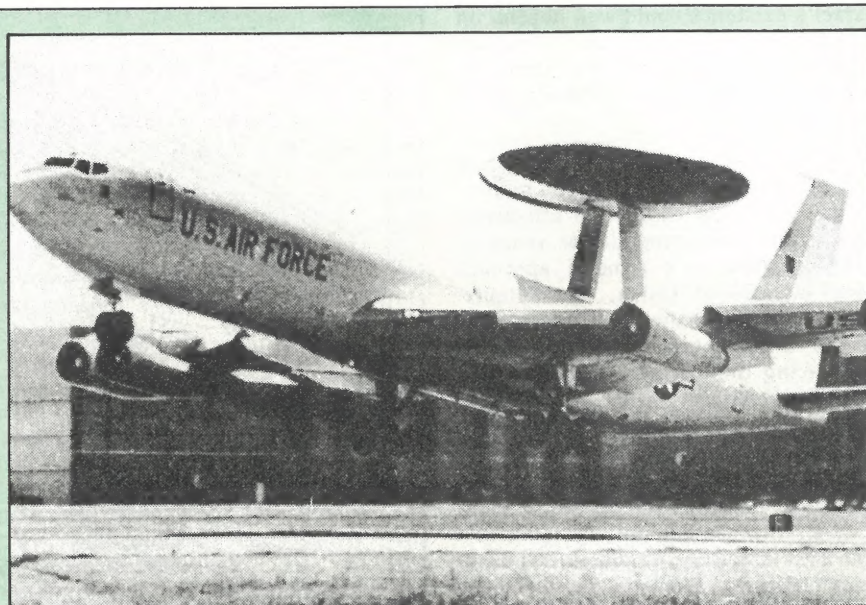
The Executive Editor of *Washington Quarterly* is Michael Ledeen, who recently co-authored an attack on the Libyan Jamahiriya, which was little more than a raking over of assorted facts and unsubstantiated allegations about the Billy Carter affair. It appeared both in *The New Republic*, a leading periodical of the American right, and in the London-based *Now* magazine, owned by food millionaire Sir James Goldsmith.

CSIS is also where Henry Kissinger has been based while he has been out of office. Kissinger has mended his fences with the hawks. In particular, his recent conversion to opposition to the ratification of the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, SALT-2, meant that he was opposing the logical conclusion of the process of detente which he had started. But his opposition was welcomed, and was one of the crucial factors in bringing the hawks victory in the Senate, which refused to ratify the SALT-2 Treaty.

The final clue to the nature of Reagan's commitment to Israel is to be found in Beigin's honour for Rev Jerry Falwell. A Christian fundamentalist preacher, Falwell leads the self-styled Moral Majority, a grouping of evangelical and conservative Christian sects, which have a wide following in the US. Their political power comes from their access to television programme time which the financial contributions of the gullible faithful buys for them. Moral Majority last year formed an alliance with the Conservative Caucus, a group of right wing organisations inside and outside the Republican Party, which has attempted to bring together groups campaigning against progressive reforms on single issues.

At the centre of this group is Richard Vigurie, who combines business and politics in a profitable fashion. Vigurie runs a computer-based mailing system, which is used to send millions of letters which may appeal either for funds or for support of a political candidate. He has built the list, estimated to number some 10 million conservatives and religious fundamentalists, and charges for the use of it, also extracting from the potential user — who is carefully politically vetted — that organisation's own mailing list to add to the existing names.

Within this group of organisations, and playing a prominent role in determining the content of its ideas, is the John Birch Society, which for decades has been the rallying point for racists, and has constantly been infiltrated and used by anti-Semites. Within the fundamentalist 'Christianity' represented by Falwell,



US Awacs: A sinister threat to Arab nationalism.

## Washington's new colonialism

*THE AMERICAN military build-up in the Middle East is the other side of the coin of US diplomatic efforts to divide and control the Arabs. Last month, 1,400 US Marines exercised with Egyptian troops in the desert. It was the first outing for the Rapid Deployment Force created by President Carter under pressure from the hawks because they felt that US diplomatic efforts lacked credible force to back them. US weapons are the carrot; the Rapid Deployment Force is the stick with which US wishes are to be enforced on the Arabs, writes Phil Kelly.*

*The idea of the RDF is that US troops, aircraft and warships on the edges of the Arab homeland — in western Europe, Africa and the Indian Ocean — will be rushed to any place where US diplomacy fails to keep the people under control. But the hawks want to go further. They argue that the RDF is just a compromise, and that the real answer lies in new and expanded military bases in the Arab world itself. The Reagan administration will certainly be sympathetic to such arguments.*

*The hawks in the Pentagon use any disturbance in the Middle East — such as the conflict between Iraq and Iran — to carry out policies which they have already planned. The AWACS Boeing planes, stationed in*

*Saudi Arabia, are said to be purely for reconnaissance purposes. In fact, they can serve as airborne command posts for the RDF, as well as providing detailed information on neighbouring countries.*

*The Reagan administration will continue to use the troubles of the Middle East — many of which it helps to foment — to bolster its military presence there.*

*Its policies will continue to be closely co-ordinated with Israel's. Carter's Under Secretary for Defence, Robert Komer, and the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff are both to visit Israel this month, and Reagan's liaison will be no less close.*

*As even Time magazine has pointed out, once the Americans are well established in the area, it will be quite easy for their troops to be turned against their hosts: '... the suspicion lingers in the Gulf that the strategists in Washington have a supersecret fifth contingency use for [the] ... Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force: American seizure of the oil fields in a local crisis, or in the event of another Arab oil boycott or a massive price hike by OPEC' (Time, 22 September 1980). Thus even some Americans openly acknowledge that military involvement leads to military bases, and that these are steps on the road to a new colonialism.*

there is, equally, a degree of anti-Semitism.

So it was not surprising, really only another demonstration of the links between anti-Semitism and Zionism, that Falwell, on the occasion of receiving his honour from Beigin, should declare that he had been a Zionist for 25 years, and that support for Israel was one of the tenets of Moral Majority.

Given the absence of real democracy in the United States — only half those entitled to vote bothered to do so (see inset) — the support of organised vote getting organisations like Moral Majority is important. Certainly, these people believe Reagan owes them a debt. But it is the Zionists who will dominate the foreign policy elite which will advise Reagan, and will shape his Middle East policy.



## The conquest of the desert

'THERE IS no independence for a nation that eats from overseas.' These words of Libyan revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi encapsulate one of the prime motives for the heavy emphasis that has been accorded the agricultural sector since the advent of the Al Fateh Revolution on 1st September 1969. The Free Unionist Officers who ousted the corrupt regime of the former Libyan monarch, King Idris, were well aware that political independence for a people went hand in hand with economic independence. However ardent the nationalistic sentiments of a people might be, their quest for true independence will be thwarted if they remain dependent on foreign states for the commodities on which they depend — and there is no commodity so basic to a people's welfare as food supplies.

There were other factors that made the development of the Libyan Jamahiriya's agriculture so important. First, the national economy was dangerously dependent on the oil sector. There was an urgent need to diversify the sources of national wealth since Libyans recognised that the oil will not last for ever. And the development of the oil industry had itself caused considerable upheaval in the agricultural sector. Farm workers were abandoning their lands and moving to the cities and oilfields to avail themselves of the lucrative new employment opportunities in construction. While the rural areas were being depopulated, the cities were becoming overcrowded and their infrastructures placed under great strain. To halt the drift to the towns, and if possible to reverse it, became a major preoccupation of Libya's planners.

**ANYONE LANDING at Tripoli's International Airport will see below them the fields of green vegetation and orchards which are part of the Libyan Jamahiriya's ambitious land reclamation and agricultural development programme. This report reviews the political and economic implications and goals behind this multi-billion dollar transformation set in motion by the Al Fateh Revolution.**



The task that the new revolutionaries set themselves was daunting — the launching of a veritable 'green revolution' which would bring into cultivation millions of hectares of formerly barren land and enhance the productivity of existing farms.

The livestock sector was to be expanded dramatically. New techniques of farming were to be introduced, perhaps the most revolutionary being the establishment of 'agri-business', involving the intensive production of poultry. And all this was to be achieved in a country where the natural environment is extremely inimical to agriculture. In 90 per cent of the Jamahiriya rainfall averages less than 50mm per annum, and even in better watered regions of the north east and north west rainfall is not reliable. Droughts can wreak havoc on the unirrigated farmlands in these areas: the Jebel Akhdar near Benghazi, and the Jebel Nefusa in the region of Tripoli. The parlous condition of Libyan agriculture in the days of the former regime was highlighted by the 1960 Census of Agriculture. This showed that out of a total land area of about 435 million acres, less than 2.5 per cent of the land was used for agricultural purposes and only four per cent of the total arable land was irrigated.

The Al Fateh Revolution in 1969 brought with it a new determination to overcome these problems. The scope and extent of the schemes envisaged is well illustrated by a comparison of the development expenditure on the sector before and after the Revolution. In the development budgets of the eight years preceding the Revolution total outlays on agriculture amounted to



only LD 66.6 million, a mere 11.9 per cent of overall development spending. The peak outlay was in 1968, but even this totalled only LD 14.4 million. The advent of the Revolution changed the picture dramatically. In 1970, the first year of the Revolution, expenditure on agricultural development leapt to LD 23.4 million. But that was only the start. By 1977 the figure had spiralled to LD 276.9 million. In the first eight years of the Revolution a staggering total of LD 1,238.7 million was invested in agriculture, an increase of almost twenty-fold over the figure for the last eight years of the monarchy.

The impact of the mammoth injection of funds into the agriculture sector soon became apparent in its contribution to Libya's national income. In 1970 the sector contributed only LD 33.1 million of the total GDP, but by 1977 agriculture's contribution had increased to LD 156.5 million, having displayed an average annual growth rate of 25 per cent. The importance of the sector to the national economy had also grown. In 1970 agriculture contributed 2.6 per cent of national income, a figure that had increased to 2.9 per cent by 1977. In the same period, Libya's planners achieved one of their major aims: in 1975 a net migration from urban to rural areas was recorded for the first time in decades.

Land reclamation has formed the backbone of Libya's efforts in agricultural development and the results achieved have been impressive. By 1978, nine years after the Revolution, the Council of Land Reclamation and Development was

working on the development of 2,855,326 hectares in five main regions, entailing the execution of no less than 70 major projects. The latter are divided into those for dry farming and those which still depend on irrigation. All the projects in areas where rainfall is less than 200mm per annum, on average, require irrigation.

The largest of the five regions is the Jefara plain, which stretches along the coast to the west of the Jamahiriya's capital. Here the intention is to develop a total of 1,442,580 hectares for the cultivation of fruits, cereals, vegetables and animal feeds. Of the total, 18,923 hectares are planned to be irrigated and 490,797 hectares dry-farmed. The remaining area designated for reclamation is still being studied.

A second major focus of land reclamation is the Jebel Akhdar, a mountainous region in north east Libya. The programme here aims at developing 853,539 hectares for the cultivation of fodder, cereals and fruit. A large part of the area is being planted with forests, and elsewhere pastures are being upgraded. It has so far been decided that 14,590 hectares will be irrigated and an estimated 528,949 hectares dry-farmed.

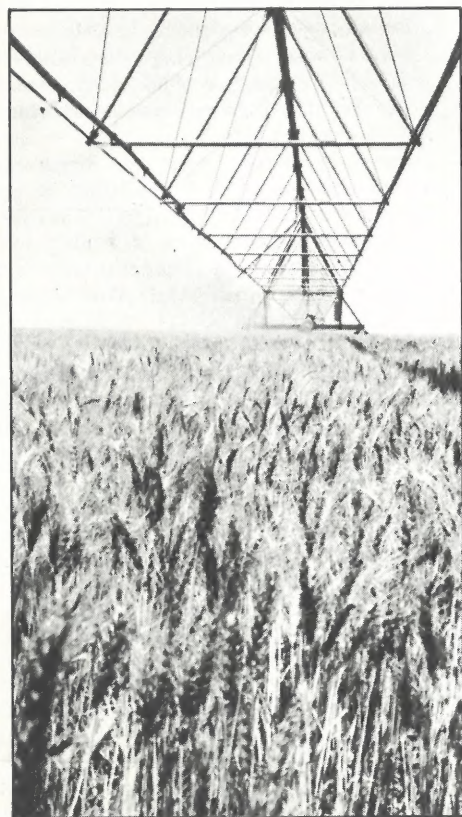
The sparsely-populated desert areas of the Libyan Jamahiriya have not been neglected by the country's planners and it is in these arid regions that three of the land reclamation areas are located. In the Fezzan, the immense south-western area of the Jamahiriya, the programme calls for the development of 39,610 hectares, of which about two-thirds are destined for

residential areas for farmers and about one third for actual cultivation. In the Kufra and Serir region, deep in the Sahara in the south east of the Jamahiriya, 90,000 hectares are being developed for the irrigated cultivation of cereals, fruit trees and fodder crops while 7,150 hectares are earmarked for residential areas. Finally, there is the Soloul al Khudr region, along the arid coast of the Gulf of Sirte about mid-way between Tripoli and Benghazi. Here 422,447 hectares are being developed for the cultivation of cereals, fodder crops and fruits and for the rearing of sheep and camels. Of the total area, 15,880 hectares are to be irrigated.

The mammoth scale of the Jamahiriya's programme of land reclamation and agricultural development was underlined in November last year, when Land Reclamation and Agrarian Reform Secretary Bashir Jawdah told the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation session in Brussels that the intention is to reclaim and develop 3.5 million hectares for agriculture. He said 30 per cent of national income is being devoted to agriculture and that some 500,000 hectares were already being cultivated.

The emphasis placed on agriculture by Libya's planners was also highlighted by recently published figures on the Jamahiriya's expenditure on development contracts in the first half of 1980. Contracts worth \$1,173.9 million were signed, up from \$582.9 million in the first half of 1979. And it was agriculture that took the lion's share, with spending at \$349.7 million, thirty per cent of the overall total.

## Latest technology for desert cultivation



A HALLMARK of the Jamahiriya's agricultural development programme has been the application of sophisticated methods and equipment to overcome the severe constraints placed by the climate on agriculture deep in the Sahara. Here, vast subterranean reservoirs have been tapped to provide water for imaginative agricultural schemes that have attracted worldwide attention. The success of the projects rests on the use of special centre-pivot irrigation machines, each of which waters a vast circular field. From a well at the centre of the field, water is fed into a sprinkler tube which is mounted on wheels and circles the field automatically.

These remarkable irrigation machines, first used in the deserts of the western USA, were employed for the first time in Libya at the remote oasis of Kufra in the south east, where they are now irrigating thousands of hectares of former desert. Fodder crops are produced to feed a vast flock of stall-fed sheep, animals whose meat is a traditional staple of the Libyan diet. Following the success at Kufra, centre-pivot irrigation machines were next installed in the Serir region to

the north.

In 1978 centre-pivot irrigators were used for the first time in the Fezzan. A \$30 million contract was awarded to irrigate and sow sixty 40 hectare areas at Maknussa, 60 miles west of Sebha. The success of the scheme was underlined by the 1978/79 harvest, when 9,000 tonnes of maize and wheat were produced, with an astonishingly high yield of 5.2 tonnes per hectare.

The latest agricultural scheme employing centre-pivot irrigators is also located in the Fezzan. A year ago the Food Development Corporation of the United States won a \$120 million contract to reclaim 125 circular areas, each of 40 hectares, at Wadi Aril east of Sebha. Work on the site progressed rapidly but the fate of this year's wheat crop illustrates what a formidable foe the desert can be to the farmer. Most of the wheat was reportedly destroyed by fierce sand-laden winds. Trees planted as windbreaks should, however, offer an effective solution to the problem of sandstorms once the seedlings have matured, and afforestation projects in the Jamahiriya are an integral part of the country's overall land reclamation programme.

THE RECENT announcement of two major contracts in the Jamahiriya for Finnish companies, one for civil engineering work, the other for the equipment of hospitals, underlines Finland's growing involvement in Libya's mammoth programme of socio-economic development. In July it was disclosed that Libya was the third ranking Middle Eastern market for Finnish construction firms and a recently concluded economic, industrial and scientific agreement between the two countries is certain to pave the way for even greater Finnish participation in the Jamahiriya's development, as well as for an upturn in Libyan exports to the north European state.

In September it was reported that the Perusyhtymä company of Finland had won a \$22 million contract for civil engineering work at the coastal town of Homs, about 150 kilometres east of Tripoli. The work involves the expansion of the town's sewage system through the construction of 30 kilometres of drains, a pumping plant and a servicing station, and the laying of seven kilometres of road. Work on the project will begin at the end of the year. The sewerage contract is the first fruit of a marketing drive launched by the Finnish company in the middle of last year, and is the company's first contract in the Libyan Jamahiriya. As part of its marketing drive Perusyhtymä, which is one of Finland's largest civil engineering contractors, established a regional operations unit in the Libyan capital. This will control current projects and seek follow-up contracts.

A month later it was announced that a \$41 million turnkey contract to equip seven general hospitals had gone to Finland's Scandinavian Medical Exporters (Scanmedex). The hospitals, located throughout the Jamahiriya, are still under construction by French and Indian companies. Scanmedex is currently nearing completion of its first major contract in Libya, valued at about \$10 million, for extending six hospitals. So far work has finished on a hospital at Zawiyeh. The Finnish company also has a contract to provide a blood supply unit for Libya's Red Crescent Society in Benghazi.

The two new contracts come in the context of growing penetration of the Arab homeland's construction industry market by Finnish firms. In mid-July *Middle East Economic Digest* reported that Finnish construction contracts in the Middle East so far this year totalled \$885 million. Last year the region accounted for 42 per cent of Finland's building industry exports, lying in second rank after East Europe, which took 48 per cent. The most important Middle Eastern markets were Iraq, which awarded contracts worth \$545 million, and Saudi Arabia, with contracts valuing \$240 million. The Libyan Jamahiriya lay in third place, having awarded Finnish firms contracts worth \$45 million.

Because Libya does not as yet supply Finland with oil, the balance of trade between the two countries is heavily in

## Finland strengthens ties with the Jamahiriya

**THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya provides one of the largest markets for consumer and development contracts in the Middle East. As the current five year transformation plan nears its end, Finland has secured a firm foothold from which it looks set to battle with the larger industrialised nations for a role in the next development plan which will be finalised at the next meeting of the Jamahiriya's General People's Congress**

Finland's favour. In 1979 Finnish exports to Libya totalled \$41 million, while trade in the reverse direction was only \$31,000. Respective figures for the first half of this year were \$31 million and nil. This situation may well change soon, however. A Finnish government spokesman recently said, 'Libya has few items to sell us, and the only item that could balance our trade is oil.' Significantly, however, he reported that the state-owned Neste Corporation saw no technical problems to refining Libyan crude, 'and it wants to open contacts. At present the bulk of Finland's oil is supplied by the Soviet Union while about one-third is supplied by Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran. As Neste attempts to diver-



Imported vehicles await collection from Tripoli port.

sify its suppliers, Libyan oil would make good commercial sense since transport costs from the north African state are lower than from the Arabian Gulf.

Economic ties between the Jamahiriya and Finland were given a boost last November when the two countries signed an agreement on economic, industrial and technological co-operation agreement. And on 22nd September this year an 18-man delegation arrived in the Finnish capital, Helsinki, for the first meeting of the joint commission set up under the agreement. The meeting, which issued a call to civil servants and businessmen to explore new ways of expanding trade between the two countries, seems sure to have set the stage for a new burgeoning of economic exchanges. Specific projects discussed included the construction of 3,000 dwelling units, 1,000 classrooms, a prefabricated lightweight concrete factory, supermarkets and roads. Also on the agenda were hospitals and hotels, although reportedly nothing specific emerged from the talks on these two topics.

The Libyan delegation to the meeting was headed by the Electricity Secretary, Mr Ahmad al Arbush, and as well as touring Neste installations, underlining the state company's interest in Libyan oil, the Jamahiriya's team visited a largely Soviet-built nuclear power station. Previously Mr Arbush had conducted talks in Moscow on a long-mooted scheme for the Soviet Union to construct a nuclear power station, with the assistance of Finnish know-how, in the Jamahiriya. This project, however, was reportedly not on the agenda at the Helsinki talks.

On past form, any contracts in Libya stemming from the Helsinki talks will be large scale — a fact also suggested by the projects under discussion at the meeting. At present Finnish firms are engaged in contracts valuing \$82 million in the Jamahiriya, including, in addition to the Scanmedex hospital work, the construction of a harbour at Tobruk, a dairy at Bayda, reservoirs at Gharian, civil engineering at Homs, warehouses at Aziziyeh, and gas compression facilities and pipelines at Oasis. The scale of work which Finnish companies have the capability to undertake is well illustrated by the work in hand in Tobruk. Last year two contracts worth \$22.6 million were awarded for major harbour works there to Vesi-Pekka of Helsinki. Under the first contract, valued at \$13.8 million, the company is building a naval base with an 800 metre quay and two 200 metre piers for submarines. The second contract, worth \$8.8 million, involves the dredging of the Tobruk port basin and the construction of two quays for merchant shipping.



## Libyan contracts top \$500 million

IN THE third quarter of 1980 the Libyan Jamahiriya awarded contracts valued at \$588.3 million, reported *Middle East Economic Digest* on 14th November. This level of development spending was topped by only three other Middle Eastern states — Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Overall spending by Middle Eastern states (including Iran and Turkey) in the review period was up on the previous two quarters of the year, but down on the equivalent period of 1979. The value of the June to August quarter contracts was more than \$11,348.8 million, compared with \$9,943.5 million during the previous three months. Third quarter contracts last year were valued at \$12,319 million.

The bulk of the Jamahiriya's development spending was accounted for by the hydrocarbons and petrochemicals sector, with contracts valued at \$177.4 million, the food and agriculture sector, with contracts standing at \$141 million, and the transport sector, where contracts valued at \$135.3 million were recorded. The Libyan Jamahiriya accounted for 5.2 per cent of total development spending in the Middle East in the third quarter this year.

## OPEC solidarity with Africa

OIL MINISTERS of the four African OPEC states have announced a decision to divert part of their output to African countries hit by the loss of exports from Iraq and Iran as a result of the Gulf war.

The ministers said on 9th November after a meeting in Algiers that the four exporters, the Libyan Jamahiriya, Algeria, Nigeria and Gabon, would not increase their production nor restore output cuts made earlier this year when there was a world glut of oil.

Mr Belkacem Nabi of Algeria, asked how the relief supplies to needy African states would be found, replied that contracts were being renegotiated with other customers and that some might not be renewed. The Gabonese Minister, Mr Alexis Mbouy-Boutzit, said 4 per cent of the four countries' output, which he put at five million barrels per day, would be put aside to assist needy countries.

Four per cent of the output would be about 200,000 barrels per day, a tiny volume compared with the total world demand but significant in the African context. African countries' import requirements are generally low, but they can afford only tiny stockpiles

and are therefore vulnerable to interruptions of supply.

The oil ministers said work would start at once on determining which African states were most in need.

## Massive upturn in Arab exports to West Europe

ARAB LEAGUE countries exported goods, mainly fuel, worth \$52.8 billion to the European Economic Community in 1979, compared with only \$9.3 billion in 1972. The League's share of total EEC imports rose from 14 per cent in 1972 to nearly 19 per cent in 1979, according to a study of Euro-Arab relations just published in Brussels by the European Commission.

The study, which came out in the same week as the first meeting of the Euro-Arab Dialogue for more than two years, stressed that although the Common Market continues to be the biggest market, accounting for 43.9 per cent of Arab League exports, its share declined by 16 per cent in the 1972-79 period, while that of Japan and the US increased. On the import side, the European Community's proportion remained unchanged while Japan nearly doubled its share of the Arab market.

The dramatic increase in the value of EEC imports is almost entirely the result of higher oil prices. About 84 per cent of EEC imports from the Arab League countries constituted oil from the Gulf states and the Libyan Jamahiriya. But the Common Market also imports gas from Algeria, phosphates from Morocco, cotton from Sudan and Syria and iron ore from Mauritania. In addition, the EEC imports some \$520 million worth of foodstuffs, mainly fruit and vegetables, from the Arab homeland. The League's two biggest customers are France and Italy, which take more than half of all EEC imports from the Arab states.

EEC exports to Arab League countries increased from \$5.67 billion (6.6 per cent of all exports) in 1972 to \$38 billion (15.1 per cent) in 1979. European exports include machinery, transport equipment and other manufactured goods (80 per cent), while food and chemicals are also important. Last year the EEC's trade deficit with the Arab homeland was \$24.7 billion.

## OPEC loan for Nicaragua

A LOAN agreement in the amount of \$10 million was signed on 11th November between Nicaragua and the OPEC Fund for International Development. The Nicaraguan

government may use the loan proceeds to import capital goods, spare parts and inputs required for agricultural and industrial production, as well as foodstuffs and other essential consumer goods.

The loan is the second to be extended by the fund to Nicaragua, which previously benefitted from a \$10 million balance of payments support loan. The new loan carries a four per cent interest rate and a service charge of 0.5 per cent per annum, and has a ten-year maturity, including a three-year grace period. The local counterpart funds generated under the loan agreement will be used to finance development projects in Nicaragua, which must be approved by the fund.

The loan agreement was signed at the OPEC headquarters in Vienna, with Nicaragua being represented by its Minister of Finance, Dr Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro, and the fund by its Director-General, Dr Ibrahim Shehata.

With the signature of this loan agreement, the fund has concluded 208 loans with 76 countries, including 112 loans for balance of payments support.

## Arab nations hold 16 per cent of world's natural gas

THE ARAB homeland's reserves of natural gas constitute 16 per cent of the world's reserves, says a report issued by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). The Arab reserves increased from 10.1 trillion cubic metres in 1975 to 11.4 trillion cubic metres last year.

The OAPEC report discloses that member states' production of natural gas totalled 116 billion cubic metres in 1975, of which 60 per cent was flared. By 1978 production had risen to 146 billion cubic metres, of which 52 per cent was flared.

### OAPEC member state gas output, 1978

	cubic metres
Libyan Jamahiriya	31.244bn
Algeria	32.517bn
Kuwait	11.124bn
Iraq	11.000bn
Qatar	4.650bn
Saudi Arabia	43.784bn
United Arab Emirates	13.553bn
Bahrain	3.715bn
Syria	.470bn

The OAPEC study reports that most member states have started ambitious projects to utilise their gas output. The most notable projects involve the liquefaction of gas and its export in specially

designed tankers. More than 30 billion cubic metres of gas per year is used for liquefaction, says the report.

OAPEC stresses the urgent need to cut down the wastage of natural gas through flaring-off, and points to its value as a raw material for the petrochemicals industry and as an alternative source of energy.

## TWA blacklisted

THE AMERICAN aviation company Trans World Airlines has been placed on the Arab boycott blacklist and banned from flying in Arab airspace or landing at Arab airports. The ban resolution was taken at a recent Arab Boycott Bureau meeting in Tunis.

The ban was prompted by the failure of TWA to answer certain queries posed by the boycott office. The US airline was acting under the newly-issued American boycott law which prevents US companies from responding to Arab boycott pressure. The ban resolution is binding on all 21 Arab League member states but the time of execution differs from one country to another depending on the time needed to issue the necessary executive order in each country.

TWA is the second international airline to be placed on the Arab boycott list. Air France was boycotted in the early 1950s for violating Arab boycott regulations, but the ban was later lifted after the airline complied with them.

It was reported that at the same meeting in Tunis the British children's clothing company Mothercare and the West German investment firm DEG had also been placed on the Arab blacklist.

## OPEC aid for Third World education

THE FEASIBILITY study for the creation of an institute for higher education for Third World countries will be presented at the next ordinary meeting of the conference of oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti has said. The conference is scheduled to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in mid-December.

During a tour of several oil producing countries in the Arab homeland last February, including the Libyan Jamahiriya, Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins discussed the creation of the institute, whose purpose would be to train technicians in the developing countries.

## Turkey wins major port contract

THE CONTRACT to build a harbour for the planned iron and steel works at Misrata, east of Tripoli, has been awarded to Sezai Turkes Feyzi Akkaya of Turkey, reported *Middle East Economic Digest* on 14th November. Sub-contractor for dredging is the Netherlands' Royal Bos Kalis Westminster and consultant for the project is Frederic R Harris of the US.

The \$282 million contract is for the harbour's first phase and will take between 36 and 42 months to complete. A bulk berth is to be constructed with an unloading capacity of 2,000 tonnes of iron ore or 1,300 tonnes of coal per hour. The projected second and third building phases will raise the hourly unloading capacity of iron ore to 4,000 tonnes and 8,000 tonnes.

It has also been announced that Tripoli's port, which has already undergone extensive expansion and development, is to be further enlarged. Prequalification for a five year contract to construct an outer deep-water harbour closed on 1st December. The work involves building four kilometres of quays and a separate two-berth refined oil products and tanker terminal. About 9.8 million cubic metres of land will be reclaimed and 7.8 million cubic metres dredged. Work on port infrastructure includes 50 hectares of paving, nine kilometres of roads and rail tracks, a passenger terminal, warehouses, workshops and administration buildings. Cargo handling equipment is to be supplied in a separate contract.

Tripoli port's first phase of expansion was carried out by the same Turkish company that now has the Misrata port contract. Earlier, in mid-October, it was disclosed that Contimar Liner Agencies (UK) had started a container service on its Libya run. Contimar started its conventional service in April this year, with sailings from the UK calling at Tripoli and Benghazi every two weeks.

## Maritime cargo links expand

THE IMPORTANCE of the Libyan Jamahiriya as a market for west European goods has been highlighted by the inauguration of a number of new maritime cargo services to the north African state. At the end of October the Italian state-owned shipping line Tirrenia di Navigazione resumed its cargo ferry service linking Tripoli with the Italian ports of Genoa, Naples, Catania, Trieste and Bari.

Libya's maritime links to Italy have also been enhanced by an increase in the frequency of the roll-on, roll-off cargo services operated by the Compagnie Algéro-Libenne de Transport Maritime (Caltram). These link



Tripoli's busy port: expansion announced.

Livorno in southern Italy to Tripoli, Benghazi and Marsa Brega. Caltram, a joint venture between the Jamahiriya and Algeria, has introduced a second vessel, the *Ghardaia*, and now operates the service weekly.

Links between the Jamahiriya and Britain have been improved by the introduction on 10th November of a new roll-on, roll-off cargo service operated by Libya's national line, General National Maritime Transport Company, from the East Anglian port of Felixstowe. The service, to Tripoli and Benghazi, runs every three weeks. UK agent is Aquitaine Maritime Agencies.

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## Libya's workforce approaches one million

A RECENT census shows that the workforce in the Libyan Jamahiriya now totals 800,000, of whom 58,000 are women, the Jamahiriya News Agency (JANA) reports. The country's total population now stands at 3,245,000, including 411,200 non-Libyans.

The Jamahiriya has one of the highest rates of population growth in the world, the 1979 *World Bank Atlas* recording an

average growth rate of 4.1 per cent in the 1970-77 period. The Atlas put Libya's mid-1978 population at 2.745 million.

## New town for Kufra

THE REMOTE oasis of Kufra, deep in the Sahara of south east Libya, and the site of one of the Jamahiriya's most ambitious agricultural schemes, is to be the scene of a major programme of urban development. Sweden's Amerad Betong Vaegfoerbaetringar (ABV) has signed a \$143.5 million contract, the firm's first in the Jamahiriya, to build an entire new town at Kufra.

Work entails building 600 apartments, comprising one and two storey buildings, and infrastructure, including a sewage treatment plant and schools. The new town will house about 2,000 people, most of them workers from the nearby agricultural scheme, and will be constructed to the north of the existing town of Kufra, which has a population of about 5,000. Work is for completion in three years.

ABV has also received a letter of intent for an extension to Tripoli's Al Fateh university. The contract, valued at about \$21.5 million, is for building additional lecture rooms and dormitories.

In another development in the field of housing, Libya's Al Mukhtar Insurance Company has awarded a \$31.7 million contract to an international com-

pany for the construction of a housing estate and shopping complex in Misrata and homes in Sirte.

Following ABV's successes in the Libyan market, it was reported on 7th November that orders for road-building equipment totalling \$610,450 have been placed with the UK office of Sweden's Dynapac Maskin. The equipment, for supply to Libyan companies, includes soil compactors, concrete vibrators and eleven heavy vibratory rollers.

## Good year for LAFB

THE LIBYAN Arab Foreign Bank's balance sheet total increased to \$2,585 million last year, up from \$2,313.3 million in 1978. Pre-tax profit in 1979 was \$47 million, a 48.2 per cent increase on the previous year. The bank's capital and reserves in 1979 amounted to \$172.2 million and investments, advances and loans during the year totalled \$273.6 million. The Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, which is the only financial institution in the Jamahiriya with offshore status, is the major vehicle for the disbursement of Libyan economic aid overseas.

The scale of the financial resources of the Libyan Jamahiriya was vividly demonstrated by a report from the official news agency JANA that the Central Bank of Libya had total assets and liabilities of \$15,256.3 million as of 15th October this year. The currency in circulation in the Jamahiriya was put at the equivalent of \$2,525.4 million.



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